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rather perfunctory character. The unqualified use of grammar citations throughout the book is a little disappointing. The teacher of Xenophon wants to come in touch with the editor he is using, especially at points involving difficulties or distinctions not to be reached by general rules.

These are matters which, though of the utmost importance, are somewhat apart. Any criticism that may be implied in them is such that it does not in the least reflect on the excellence of Professor Smith's work. His Xenophon marks a distinct advance in the character of the standard school texts. It is sure to be cordially received, and will without doubt make good its claim to be regarded as a book for the twentieth century.

J. H. T. MAIN.

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Roman Society from Nero to Marcus Aurelius. By SAMUEL DILL.

London: Macmillan & Co., 1904. Pp. 639. \$4 net.

It is within bounds to say that not since the production of Friedländer's *Sittengeschichte Roms* (Leipzig, 1888) has so good a volume on the social life of the Romans been presented to classical and general readers. It does not cover the ground of Friedländer's three volumes either in time or detail of treatment; nor does it profess to be an exhaustive treatment of Roman life; but it is a generous and welcome contribution to the literature of the subject, and will prove to be of great value to students and teachers of the classics.

The work is divided into four books or parts. The first book shows the dark side of Roman society under the suggestive caption *Infesta virtutibus tempora*, and portrays the times under the "bad emperors" as reflected by Seneca and Petronius, Juvenal, Martial, and Tacitus. As we read the three chapters of this part, we are made to see how utterly corrupt certain sections of Roman society were. But in the second part, whose title is *Rara temporum felicitas*, we find that, notwithstanding the undoubted corruption among some classes, there was a "saving remnant" of the good old Roman stock even during the worst of times. It is a pleasure to turn from the pessimistic historian and the too indignant satirist to the quiet sanity of the younger Pliny, and to the humble testimony of the countless sepulchral inscriptions, and thus to gain a more hopeful view of Roman life as a whole. In the words of Dill:

A book like the *Caesars* of Suetonius, concentrating attention on the life of the emperor and his immediate circle, is apt to suggest misleading conclusions as to the conditions of society at large. The old Roman character, perhaps the strongest and toughest national character ever developed, was an enduring type. And its true home was in the atmosphere of quiet country places in northern or central Italy, where the round of rural labor and simple pleasures reproduce the environment in which it first took form . . . There are youths and maidens in the portrait gallery of Pliny whose innocence was guarded by good women as pure and strong as those who nursed the stern, unbending soldiers of the Samnite and Punic Wars.

The most interesting chapters of the second book are those on "Municipal Life," showing the state of society in the scores of Roman towns scattered throughout the empire, and on "The Colleges and Plebeian Life." Here we are introduced to life among the lowly wage-earners and tradesmen so despised by the nobles, but yet living their own lives as completely as if there had been no upper classes. The most valuable element in this chapter is the detailed picture of the workmen's "Colleges," corresponding roughly to the more modern guilds and trades unions.

The third and fourth parts are devoted to a discussion of the philosophic and religious beliefs of the time.

Incidentally the book will be found of great value to the student of Roman literature, on account of its excellent recapitulations and characterizations of the literary productions of the period under discussion, which, together with the inscriptions, form the original sources of Mr. Dill's work.

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Selections from Homer's Iliad. With Introduction, Notes, a Short Homeric Grammar, and Vocabulary. By ALLEN ROGERS BENNER. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1904. Pp. xxxvi + 522. \$1.60.

The plan of Benner's *Iliad* differs from that of previous school editions in several particulars. Five books are given entire, with as much of ii as is ordinarily read; but the books are not consecutive, and they are supplemented by extensive extracts so as to give "a comprehensive view of this great epic, both in its plot and in its larger literary aspect." On the whole, the selections will commend themselves to the student of Homer. The editor takes no notice of different strata, nor is there any idea of using exclusively those selections which deal with Achilles, as in the case of Pratt and Leaf's *Story of Achilles*. In comparison with the complete *Iliad* Benner's book does give to Achilles and Patroclus a larger place in respect to number of lines, if not in point of interest; but Books ii and iii are also included, extracts giving some of the exploits of Diomedes and of Hector, and, one is glad to see, the Hector and Andromache episode.

The topics treated in the Introduction are fewer than in some of the editions in popular use, embracing little but the origin and transmission of the Greek epic, dress in the Homeric age, and armor in the Homeric age. While the discussion of these topics is quite full and satisfactory, one who is familiar with the mental equipment of the average student when he begins to read Homer can hardly feel that Homeric armor and Homeric dress are the subjects most important for an appreciative study of the *Iliad*. The Introduction contains no reference to the characteristics of epic poetry in general, or to the distinctive qualities of the Homeric epic, no suggestion concerning the influence of the Homeric poems on